

## **House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs**

Minutes of Meeting  
2021 Regular Session  
April 28, 2021

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative John M. Stefanski, chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative John M. Stefanski, chairman  
Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV  
Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel  
Representative Royce Duplessis, vice chairman  
Representative Les Farnum  
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry  
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.  
Representative Michael T. Johnson  
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe  
Representative Rodney Lyons  
Representative Tanner D. Magee  
Representative Candace N. Newell  
Representative Polly Thomas

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.  
Representative Valarie Hodges  
Representative Dodie Horton  
Representative Barry Ivey  
Representative Malinda B. White

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst  
Lorriane Lucas, attorney  
Rosalie Ammersbach, committee administrative assistant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms  
John Harrington, clerk

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

**House Bill No. 496 by Representative Harris**

Representative Harris presented House Bill No. 496, which establishes certain requirements for financial disclosure statements filed by judges and judicial candidates and provides for the availability of such statements.

Kristy F. Gary, deputy ethics administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, emailed a letter on behalf of the Board of Ethics in support of House Bill No. 496, which is included in the committee records and labeled Exhibit A.

Representative Magee offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 496. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 496 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, and Newell voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, 2 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 176 by Representative Thompson**

Representative Thompson presented House Bill No. 176, which provides relative to the assessment of late fees and penalties relative to certain reports and financial disclosure statements required to be filed with the Board of Ethics.

Kristy F. Gary, deputy ethics administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, emailed a letter on behalf of the Board of Ethics in support of House Bill No. 176, which is included in the committee records and labeled Exhibit A.

Kathleen M. Allen, ethics administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 176.

Representative Magee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 176 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 176 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 306 by Representative Muscarello**

Representative Muscarello presented House Bill No. 306, which provides an exception to allow an immediate family member of a local school board member to be employed as a certified school bus operator.

Kristy F. Gary, deputy ethics administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, emailed a letter on behalf of the Board of Ethics in opposition to House Bill No. 306, which is included in the committee records and labeled Exhibit A.

Kathleen M. Allen, ethics administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 306.

Representative Magee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 306 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 306 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 113 by Representative Gadberry**

Representative Gadberry presented House Bill No. 113, which allows the spouse of a public servant to be employed by a person who has or who is seeking a business or financial relationship with the agency of the public servant under specified circumstances.

Kristy F. Gary, deputy ethics administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, emailed a letter on behalf of the Board of Ethics in opposition to House Bill No. 113, which is included in the committee records and labeled Exhibit A.

Representative Gadberry offered amendments to limit the bill to authorizing continued employment of the spouse. Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Kathleen M. Allen, ethics administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 113.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 113 with amendments. No vote was taken on the motion.

Doreen Brasseaux, American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana, 9643 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 485-9818, spoke in support of House Bill No. 113.

Representative Newell withdrew her motion to report House Bill No. 113 with amendments.

*Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.*

Representative Magee offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 113. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 113 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 491 by Representative Gadberry**

Representative Gadberry presented House Bill No. 491, which provides an exception to allow certain public servants and related persons and legal entities to enter into certain transactions with the public servant's agency regarding specified property under certain circumstances.

Kristy F. Gary, deputy ethics administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, emailed a letter on behalf of the Board of Ethics in opposition to House Bill No. 491, which is included in the committee records and labeled Exhibit A.

Kathleen M. Allen, ethics administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 491.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 491 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 491 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yeas.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman John M. Stefanski  
House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Date adopted: